

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8885

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, HO

SUBJ: LUMBER: U.S. COMPANY CLAIMS AGAINST COHDEFOR

REF: ARA/CEN, ES-H DATED 12/4/74

1. REFERENCE TRANSMITTAL SLIP COVERED LETTER DATED NOV. 21 FROM LAW OFFICE OF DONOVAN, LEISURE, NEWTON & IRVINE CONCERNING DELAY IN PAYMENT OF RETENTIONS MADE BY THE STATE LUMBER AGENCY (COHDEFOR) AGAINST EXPORTS BY THE HAWTHORNE EXPORT LUMBER COMPANY.

2. GENERAL MANAGER OF COHDEFOR, RICARDO REYES, ADVISES EMBASSY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH HAWTHORNE EXPORT LUMBER COMPANY HAVE RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE RETAINED FUNDS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT MORE THAN A MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE DRAFTING OF THE LAWYERS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, IT MAY BE THAT THE PROBLEM THEY RAISE HAS BEEN SOLVED. IF NOT, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT HAWTHORNE EXPORT LUMBER COMPANY HONDURAS PRESENT ITS PROBLEM TO THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE.

3. BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS WITHIN COHDEFOR CONCERNING THESE REPAYMENTS ARE BECOMING NOTORIOUS. IT APPEARS THAT COHDEFOR IS SEEKING TO MAKE PAYMENTS IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL LUMBER RATHER THAN IN CASH. HOWEVER, NEGOTIATIONS WITH SEVERAL EXPORTERS HAVE BEEN DELAYED IN PART DUE TO COHDEFOR CAUSED DELAYS AND IN PART DUE TO VARIATION AMONG ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES UTILIZED BY DIFFERENT LUMBER EXPORTERS.

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4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOLUTION TO THIS FORM OF PROBLEM CAN BEST BE OBTAINED BY DIRECT APPROACH OF THE COMPANY TO THE EMBASSY WHICH CAN THEN RAISE THE MATTER WITH COHDEFOR. THE OBVIOUS TIME LOSS AND COMPLICATION OF INCLUDING INTO THE DISCUSSION BOTH A LAW FIRM AND THE DEPT OF STATE APPEARS UNNECESSARY AT THE PRESENT TIME.
SANCHEZ

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